The Library Assistant:

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. THIRD SESSION. YEAR 1897-8.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

MARCH MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd, at Cripplegate Institute, Golden Lane, E.C., when Mr. Thomas Mason, Librarian of St. Martin's, will read a paper on "The Future of London's Public Libraries." The chair will be taken by H. R. Tedder, Esq.

At this meeting will be exhibited by Messrs. Karslake, of 61, Charing Cross Road, a number of highly artistic bindings by women binders, including specimens from the Royal School of Art Needlework, the Chiswick Art-Workers Guild, the Working Ladies' Guild, and other centres.

APRIL MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m., on Wednesday, April 6th, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, when Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.B.H.S., Librarian of Nottingham; will read a paper, entitled "A Well-equipped Public Library."

February.—The fifth meeting of the Session was held at Wandsworth Public Library, S.W., on February 9th, at 8 p.m. There was a large attendance, and after an inspection of the building, the company was kindly entertained to refreshments by Mr. and Mrs. Davis. Mr. B. L. Dyer presided, and Mr. W. T. Bradley, of the Wandsworth Libraries, read a short paper description of their history.

descriptive of their history.

Mr. Cecil T. Davis then delivered an instructive and interesting address on "Captain Marryat," illustrated by a collection of the many forms and editions in which his works have appeared. The Chairman moved, and Mr. Thorne seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Davis, for his address, and for the great trouble he had been at to make the Association's visit to Wandsworth so full of interest, and the meeting closed after an inspection of the editions of Marryat, with a vote of thanks to chairman and to Mr. Bradley.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

READING CIRCLE.—Having finished Ogle and Fovargue's "P. L. Legislation," the meetings are for the present suspended.

Social Meeting.—On Wednesday, 16th March, at 8 p.m., a social meeting will be held in the "Whittington Hall," 5 and 7, Moor Lane, E.C., near Moorgate Street Station. A very good programme is being arranged. Members wishing for extra tickets, or to render musical aid, should communicate at once with the Hon. Sec.

SUPERANNUATION.— Among the associations sending delegates to the Conference convened by the Municipal Officers' Association to promote superannuation for the officers of local authorities, is the L.A.A. The Bill as drafted last year, with the alterations noted below, is to be brought before Parliament this Session, and its progress should be watched with interest. Copies may be had on application to Mr. C. J. F. Carnell, Hon. Sec. to the M.O.A., 117, Holborn, E.C.

Page 2 clause 4, lines 27 and 28 omit "except officers on the teaching staff of a school board." Page 4, in the Schedule, clause 4 add "and any contributions he may have made under the provisions of this Act shall be transferred and paid over to the Local Authority

whose service he shall enter."

GIFTS TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Thomas Greenwood has presented 60 copies of his "Library Year Book, 1897," for distribution among the members of the L.A.A. The Committee has decided to allot them first to those who have joined since Mr. Greenwood's donation of copies of "Public Libraries" in February, 1896, and the remainder amongst provincial and junior members. At the last Committee meeting the donor was unanimously elected an honorary member, and asked to place an autograph copy of his work for preservation in the L.A.A. Library.

Mr. A. Cotgreave offers to supply assistants with his "Contents-Subject Index" at the reduced subscription of 5s., and will present each subscriber with a copy of his Guilles-Alles

Catalogue.

LECTURES IN PRINTING — London assistants off duty on Friday evenings, may obtain on application to the Manager of St. Bride's Institute, Fleet Street, E.C., tickets for a valuable course of seven lectures on Printing, to take place on dates in March and April.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following were elected at the last meeting of the Committee:—Mr. A. Baker (Ashton-under-Lyne); Mr. A. J. Standage (Ealing); Mr. H. P. Dinelli (Hammersmith); Mr. W. H. Gibson and Mr. L. R. Haggerston (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Mr. W. Quarmby (Oldham); Mr. E. H. Parsous (Rotherhithe); Mr. J. H. Mallin (Stoke Newington); Mr. E. J. Jones (Walthamstow); Mr. N. Biffen, Mr. J. E. Metson and Mr. E. A. Pick (Whitechapel); and Mr. T. Green and Mr. E. McKnight (Wigan). Mr. Thomas Greenwood was elected an Honorary Member.

Programme.

The following Artists have consented to appear:

Vocalists.

Ballad.

MR. T. ARNOTT, M.M.,
"The Gladiator" and "My Dreams."

MASTER WILL BISHOP, M.M.,

" By the Fountain" and " The Holy City."

MR. W. H. JACKSON, M.M.,

"To morrow will be Friday" & "The Diver."

MR. B. H. LANGWORTHY,

" Good Company" and " A May morning."

MR. A. NASH,

" The Gauntlet" and " My little Lass."

MR. W. VELLENOWETH,

"Queen of the Earth" and " Marching."

Comic.

MR. GUS BEAUMONT,

" A Bit of Luck" and " As large as Life."

Mr. A. Bishop, M.M.,

"Automatic Gas" and " Tatcho."

MR. TED. BRUNN.

"Oh, Mr. Robinson" & "Fifteen on the floor."

MR. JACK HOWE,

"While London sleeps" & "It was beautiful.

MR. R. LAWRENCE, M.M.,

" Tut-tut" and " The Idler."

MR. J. SCHAFE, M.M.,

" Gallery and Boxes."

Instrumentalists.

MR. C. BASSETT, M.M., and MR. T. H. YELDHAM, M.M. (Piano).

MR. A. HOOPER (Piano)

Miscellaneous.

MR. HARRY BURTON, M.M. (Select Selections).

MR. W. CARLTON-SMITH, M.M. (Dialect Ditties).

MR. HARRY DYER, M.M. (Humorous Homilies).

Each Artiste will be duly announced by the Chairman.

THE

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS'

ASSOCIATION.

· GALE

Programme

Of the Third Annual

Bohemian

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Concert.

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On Wednesday, 18th March,

AT THE

WHITTINGTON HALL,

5 & 7, MOOR LANE, LONDON, E.C.

Mr. A. H. CARTER in the Chair.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

THE LIBRARY.—The Librarian reports the receipt, during February, of Southward's "Practical Printing," 1892, from Mr. B. L. Dyer; A. L. Humphrey's "The Private Library," from Mr. A. H. Carter; and an autograph copy of T. Greenwood's "Library Year Book, 1897," from the editor.

THE CANTOR LECTURES.—Mr. C. Davenport's lectures on Bookbinding were illustrated by an exhibition of bound books, etc., and by a beautiful collection of lantern slides. By the kindness of Mr. H. B. Wheatley some tickets were placed at

the disposal of members of the L.A.A.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A Lancashire member asks for an editorial opinion as to the feasibility of forming branches of the L.A.A. This method of extension of our work has been suggested by many members, but has there yet arisen an affective desire for it? We gladly await evidence from any member who will send us the names of a dozen or more assistants in a district who will join, and attend the meetings of a branch if one were formed.

We would call the attention of senior assistants to the suitability of the present moment for commencing reading circles among the junior staff, in the subjects of the L.A. lectures. The great use of a reading circle is that it creates emulation and stirs up interest, and if, but for one half hour a week, a staff can meet together for serious study, the effect will be good. A consultation of the "Library" for March, 1897, will show, what is already being done in this direction at Newcastle and Cardiff, and from such a little circle among the staff of the Birmingham libraries there sprang the Birmingham and District Library Association. The surest way of founding branches of the L.A., may perhaps be through the establishment of these circles.

A condensed account of the recent Examination for the professional certificate may prove of interest. "It occupied the mornings and afternoons of two days in December last, the exact hours of attendance being 11, instead of 12 as formerly.

There were seven subjects, though by the regulations it was not compulsory to take the whole of these at one examination. The time allowed for the papers—1½ hours each, save for Bibliography, when 2 hours was allowed—was hardly sufficient to

deal adequately with the choice of questions.

The first section of the examination consisted of English and French Literature and Bibliography. In the French Literature paper was included the translation of a passage of 250 words on a bibliographical subject. The Bibliography paper was the most difficult, and ranged over the whole field, pre-supposing the acquirement by candidates of a vast amount of matter. The second section consisted of a paper in Classification and Shelf

arrangement, and one in Cataloguing. In the latter a knowledge of Latin was necessary. The third section, Library Management was the most practical part of the examination, and the papers must have proved very interesting to candidates actually engaged in library work. The plan required of a library building on a site of peculiar shape, and of a size that admitted of no waste of space was especially interesting.

Assistants who wish to prepare for future examinations will do well to bear in mind that throughout a great importance was attached to knowledge of the various indexes and guides to periodicals and literature, and that candidates were also required to know the bibliographical works dealing with the various subjects."

B. L. D.

CAPTAIN MARRYAT.

By CECIL T. DAVIS.

A brief account of Marryat is all that is needed this evening. He who would learn more may consult Hannay's "Life" in the Great Writer's series, the Life, in the National Dictionary of Biography, by Professor Laughton, or more in detail, the "Life and Letters" issued by Florence Marryat. The second son of Joseph Marryat of Wimbledon, M.P. for Sandwich, and of his wife, Charlotte, daughter of Frederick Geyer, of Boston, America, and grandson of Thomas Marryat, M.D., Frederick Marryat first saw light at Westminster on 10th July, 1792. As a lad he was passionately food of the sea, and, his parents allowing his natural bent full play, at fourteen he entered the navy. He served as a middy on the "Impericuse" under Cochrane, and had experience of all kinds of warfare. By the peace of 1815 he had acquired much knowledge of men and matters. In 1818 he received the medal of the Royal Humane Society, married, and was made a F.R.S. Later, he commanded a sloop which guarded St. Helena during Napoleon's sojourn there, did good work in the suppression of the Channel smugglers, and commanded an expedition to Burmah. In 1822 he published a work advocating the abolition of the iniquitous "impressment" for the navy, which gave some offence and is said to have barred his promotion in the navy, though four years later he received a C.B.

In 1829 appeared his first novel "The Naval Officer, or Scenes and Adventures in the Life of Frank Mildmay," in 3 vols. 12mo. The book described many of his own adventures, and "took the public by storm," while the author received £400 for it. Nine months later was published a previously written work, which meanwhile had appeared in the pages of the "Metropolitan Magazine,"—"The King's Own, by the author of The Naval Officer," 3 vols., 12mo., 1830. Encouraged by this second success Marryat retired from the navy with the rank of captain, and in 1832 became editor of the "Metropolitan." During the next two years in this appeared "Newton Forster," "Peter

Simple," "Jacob Faithful," "Japhet in search of a Father," and "Mr. Midshipman Easy." Each of these was afterwards published in book form in 3 vols., 12mo., and their success may be judged by the payment of £1,400 for the last named when published.

Associated in the editorship of the "Metropolitan" was E. Howard—chosen because the sub-editor "must be a nautical man"—who wrote "Rattlin the Reefer," published as "Edited by Capt Marryat," and even now included by many publishers (also librarians!!) in their lists of Marryat's works, though in the introductory remarks prefacing its issue in the magazine it is

clearly stated that it is the work of Mr. Howard.

For some time after 1834 Marryat travelled abroad. In 1836 he was at Brussels, in the following two years he made a tour of Canada and the United States, writing a "Diary" and "The Phantom Ship" while there. Having severed his connection with his former magazine, he began to write for "Colburn's New Monthly," in which appeared "Snarley Yow," where his experiences in the Preventive Service are drawn upon. In 1837 he published a work on "Signals," which ran through many editions, and was for long the standard work. Between 1842 and 1845, he wrote "Poor Jack," "Masterman Ready," "Joseph Rushbrook, or, The Poacher," and "Percival Keene."

"Masterman Ready" was published in 3 vols. 8vo., in 1841-2, and in the preface Marryat gave his reasons for writing it. It is noteworthy that the frontispiece is signed "Dickes, del., R. Bran-ston, sc., while the other illustrations are engraved by Branston, possibly after drawings by Marryat, who was a skilled draughts-

man and caricaturist.

In 1843 Marryat settled at Langham, in Norfolk, and occupied himself with the last of his sea stories, "The Privateersman," and a group of children's books. At his death in 1848, he

left unfinished " Valerie" and " The Little Savage."

To us in Wandsworth Marryat is interesting for his description of local places. He describes our river Thames, and life up and down its stream, while his youthful days spent at his father's house at Wimbledon are reflected in his novels, especially in a scene on Wimbledon Common where two young poachers literally came to the gallows—a place to this day called Jerry Abershaw's Knoll, the scene of that highwayman's exploits, and of his hanging in chains.

As a writer of sea stories Marryat has no superior: in invention, narrative skill, characterisation, and richness of humour, he is easily first of the English sea-writers. His books are thoroughly sound and healthy and betray no straining after effect, while there is an utter absence of mawkishness. He has the Englishman's love of the sea, and he brings home to us the wooden walls of our sea-girt island, with a passionate patriotism which it were well to arouse in every lad's breast. In England in the summer time, for one's holiday one turns instinctively to the

sea--and what more delightful to read at any time than those sea-yarns which have been boyhood's delight since first they were published, and which one turns to in after years, confident

of a renewal of past enjoyment!

The first editions of Marryat's works were not all published at the same house, but by Colburn, Cochrane, Longmans', Saunders & Otley, and possibly others. A search in the Reference Catalogue and in the Publishers' Circular, reveals the names of fourteen publishers, who either issued the whole or one or more of his novels and tales. By the kindness and courtesy of the publishers I am enabled to show you some of the present day issues. Messrs. Bell lend eight volumes of their "Uniform Illustrated Edition," with illustrations by Clarkson Stanfield. J. Stephenson, Sir J. Gilbert, etc.; Messrs. Blackie lend four volumes from their "School and Home Library," unillustrated; Messrs. J. M. Dent & Co. lend ten volumes of their edition of the Novels, illustrated by C. O. Murray, etc.; Messrs. Macmillan lend twelve volumes of the "Peacock" edition of their Illustrated Standard Novels, with introductions by D. Hannay, and illustrations by H. M. Brock, etc.; Messrs. Routledge send seventeen volumes of a pocket edition, unillustrated, and as a specimen of the "King's Own Edition," "Rattlin the Reefer," this volume is illustrated by E. J. Wheeler, and W. L. Courtney writes a preface to each volume of this edition; Messrs. Walter Scott send four volumes in the "Oxford Library,"—these are not uniformly illustrated. In addition Messrs. Day lend a first edition of "The Mission," two volumes, 12mo., 1845, with a frontispiece to each volume, the first edition of "Percival Keene," three volumes, 8vo., 1842, not illustrated, also "Life and Letters," by Florence Marryat (Mrs. F. Lean), two volumes, 8vo., 1872.

To each and all of these I beg to express my deep

indebtedness.

For some time past I have been gathering a small collection of Marryat's works, which I now show, calling attention to the volumes of "Colburn's Magazine" and to the issues of "Masterman Ready," specially edited for schools, and even in the S.P.C.K. penny library.

WANDSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY. By W. T. Bradley.

This Library is especially interesting as being the second in the Metropolis instituted under the Act of 1855. Westminster

was first in 1856, Wandsworth followed in 1883.

Wandsworth is both a manufacturing and residential suburb of London. On the banks of the silvery Wandle are important works, including those for the manufacture of paper. As Library Assistants we are especially interested in the latter, which were visited by the Summer School three years ago, and at which about a quarter of the paper used for "The Times" (150 miles per week) and the whole of that used for the "Illustrated London News" is made.

LIBRARY

As a residential suburb, East Hill, West Hill, Earlsfield and Southfields are covered with houses, from the workman's cottage to the stately mansion. "George Eliot," G. A. Henty and "John Strange Winter" lived here, while Miss R. N. Carey and Miss H. M. Burnside are present residents, and regular borrowers from our shelves.

The movement for the adoption of the Public Libraries' Acts originated with Mr. E. E. Greville, the then Vestry Clerk, who suggested that the library might be accommodated in the proposed Town Hall. In October, 1881, a committee was formed, and in March, 1882, it reported favourably. Beyond receiving and adopting this report no action was taken by the Vestry, but Mr. Greville persevered, and in July, 1883, a poll was taken, with the result that 1,550 voted for, and 482 against the adoption of the Acts, giving a majority of 1,068 for.

In August, 1883, the first Commissioners were appointed, and it being found that sufficient accommodation could not be provided for the library in the Town Hall, Putney Lodge was purchased as the cheapest and most convenient place. The first librarian was Mr. Cotgreave, then librarian of Richmond, and the Commissioners proceeded to get the premises made suitable

for the library.

In March, 1885, the reading rooms were open to the public with about 320 newspapers, etc.. of which no less than 218 were presented. The attendances were unexpectedly large; on several Saturdays the number of visitors was counted and found to vary from 1,013 to 1,610, so that the rooms were inconveviently crowded. A room had been set apart as a recreation room, but a gang of unruly youths monopolised it, and after a time the room was used as a supplementary reading room, while only the game of chess was permitted.

On October 1st, 1885, the Lending and Reference Libraries were opened by the Lord Mayor, who dined in the library, and afterwards addressed a meeting at the Town Hall. In October, 1886, Mr. Cotgreave resigned, and since that date the library has grown and waxed strong under the fostering care of our present

chief Mr. Cecil T. Davis.

In 1887 the handsome Reading Room, 70 by 20 feet, was presented by the late Dr. G. D. Longstaff, and opened by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

In November, 1887, a system of open access for Encyclo-

pædias, Dictionaries and Directories was adopted.

In 1895 a delivery station was opened at Earlsfield, where books can be changed weekly, and in 1896 an evening reading room was opened. These departments are working well, and repay the small amount they cost. A branch library is about to be built at Wandsworth Common, and will be opened in 1899.

The system in use in the lending library is the Cotgreave Indicator, Elliot's Indicator, being also used for unbound magazines. The library contains about 16,000 volumes in all departments, with an average daily issue of 350 volumes.

TECHNICAL TRAINING AND A ROYAL CHARTER FOR LIBRARIANS.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Library Association is to be congratulated on the issue of the syllabus of its first course of cducative lectures for the junior members of the profession.

It is also to be congratulated on having obtained a Royal

Charter of Incorporation.

As foreshadowed in the January number of this journal, the scheme of lectures is a very admirable one, and the lecturers secured are Mr. Macfarlane, of the British Museum, on Bibliography, while practical men like Mr. Southward and Mr. Cockerell, will take the classes in "Historical Printing" and "Bookbinding." Assistants will all do well to obtain a syllabus, even if they cannot attend, but every effort must be made to make this preliminary course of lectures a success, so that their continuance next winter will be imperative.

After deliberations which have been spread over the whole of its existence, the Library Association has now launched this educational plan, and has fallen into line with the older professional organisations in affording these facilities for the continuity of the best knowledge and practice of its crafts. With the added dignity that its charter will give it, it is to be hoped that the effort will be continuous, and that classes will be

continued for all time.

Like all other professions, librarianship has not leapt "full-panoplied from the brain of Jove," and it must organise slowly—even as the doctors have done in their evolution from the medicine-man and the barber-surgeon—even as the schoolmasters are doing, from the old pensioner of the village school, and the proprietor of Dotheboy's Hall—but the day seems dawning when the haphazard appointments of untrained persons, ignorant of practical librarianship, shall be impossible.

But that day will not be hastened by the throwing open of these classes, started very largely in response to the demand voiced by the L.A.A., to all comers, so that any person on payment of a slightly increased fee may attend them.

Officially these classes (vide advertisement in "Athenaum") are "technical," and if so, why are not the rules which govern other technical classes applied? No person may attend a technical class in typog-aphy or bookbinding unless "actually engaged in that trade." Nor can anyone attend a course of architectural lectures organised by the professional body, unless "practising as an architect, or assistant, or an articled pu pil."

The admission of outsiders to these classes and their official certification in Theoretical Librarianship will not increase the number available for the ill-paid drudgery of subordinate posts in libraries. It will only increase the competition for librarianships and the better paid posts, which very fairly might be left

to be competed for by the men who have earned them by long years of practical experience, and of honourable service to the

present generation of librarians.

Assistants have not yet forgotten a once proposed scheme by which librarians were to have articled pupils to teach librarianship to, while the mechanical drudgery of library work was to be done by paid assistants; and if the admission of outsiders to these classes, and their official certification in Theoretical Librarianship is the affording of the protection of the Library Association to any revival of such a scheme, it will be a great injustice.

It may have been unavoidable, but was it not significant that the "Inaugural Address" of the Bishop of London, which surely was part of the educational scheme, should have been given on a Friday evening, when it was impossible for many

would-be students, except outsiders, to be present?

If the Library Association wishes to afford facilities for the improvement of the education of the present assistants, they can do so without affording facilities for more men of professional "Olympian descent"; and assistants will look to those librarians who have themselves served long and honourably as assistants to protect their successors and their interests.

BRIEF NOTES OF LIBRARY NEWS.

[The Editor regrets that owing to the difficulty of obtaining Library News at first hand, he inadvertently allowed certain incorrect statements appearing in a contemporary to be repeated in the January number. While every care will be taken to verify library notes appearing in the general press—the only way librarians and others can ensure a proper record being made in this place, is by themselves authorising it.]

Bow and Bromley. — The amalgamation of these two parishes, for library purposes, has now been decided upon, Bromley electing six, and Bow five representatives on the Joint Committee.

CAMBERWELL.—On January 6th, Sir Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy, formally opened the School of Arts and Crafts, which, in conjunction with the South London Art Gallery, the library authority recently took over. This is an interesting development of the work of libraries in London, on lines which have proved valuable elsewhere. A temporary library has been opened in Neate Street, to supply the densely populated district between the Albany and Old Kent Roads.

CARDIFF.—It is proposed to print a catalogue of the rich collection of Welsh literature in the library. As no book has dealt with this department of bibliography since Rowland's "Cambrian Bibliography," which only contains books printed before 1800,

there should be some demand for copies at 7s. 6d. Lord Tredegar recently presented an autograph sonuet of Wordworth's "When Severn's sweeping flood," which tells of the destruction of a Cardiff church.

CHESTER.—Mr. W. Brown, Chairman of the Library Committee, who in 1887 built and presented the reading room at a cost of £1,400, has now given £500 for the purchase of books.

Christ Church, Southwark.—This small parish has had a library for eight years, situate in an unsuitable building, but the Library Commissioners are now building a new library in the centre of the parish, at a cost of £3.500, the elevation of which appears in London of November 25th last.

East Ham. - Mr. Passmore Edwards' offer of £4,000 is to build a library at Plashet, if a site is provided. The first report of the North Woolwich branch of the East Ham Libraries (Mr. Wallace Phipps, librarian) has just been printed.

Howick, NATAL.—In commemoration of the Queen's 60th year of reigning, this village has established a Public Library.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The Reading and News Rooms, the first portion of Library and Art Gallery, were opened on the 14th February.

Kensington.—On Tuesday, 28th December, the Kensington Book-Fellows held their Sixth Annual Conversazione, in the Reference Library. Mr. Herbert Jones, President, was in the chair, supported by Mr. W. Wadley, Vice-President, while there was a good attendance of members and friends. Among the latter were, Mr. W. Hynam, Library Commissioner, and Miss Hynam, Mr. Preece, of Stoke Newington, Mr. Bridle, of Penge, and Mr. McDouall, of Shepherd's Bush. A very pleasant programme was contributed by Signor Mattini, Mr. Stanley Philp, Mr. T. Yeldham, Mr. C. Bassett, Miss Pattison, Miss Lewis, Miss May, and others.

King's Lynn.—The Committee of the Stanley Library are approaching the Town Council with a view to the adoption of the Acts.

LAMBETH PALACE.—Students of the 1897 Summer School and others who have visited the library here, will be interested in the measured drawings, and historical notes in "The Builder" of January 15th.

Lewes.—At the quarterly meeting of the Town Council held on February 2nd, the corporate seal was ordered to be affixed to the deed of conveyance of the Fitzroy Memorial Library from the Trustees to the Corporation.

LEYTON.—The "Daily Mail" of the 12th January, contains an interview with Mr. Z. Moon, Librarian of Leyton, in reference to an interesting experiment for the encouragement of juvenile readers, for which it is claimed that it makes this library, "the only one in the world where children can borrow any book on the shelves, with the exception of adult fiction." "London" of the 20th January, has some further details, and it is stated that the removal of the age limit increases the percentage of general classes in a remarkable manner.

PERTH.—On December 18th, the Perth Architectural Association visited the Sandeman Library.

PLUMSTEAD.—A Committee having been formed to procure the adoption of the Acts, with Col. Hughes, M.P., as Chairman, the parish was polled, with the result of a majority of upwards of a thousand in favour.

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA.—The Public Library Committee are inviting designs for a new Library building, to cost £22,000.

St. George, Hanover Square.—"London" of the 3rd February, contains a letter from Mr. F. Pacy, Librarian of St. George's, detailing the work done in that library for juvenile readers, and pointing out the desirability of some selection of the books, and criticising "the enormous increases in the issues of philosophical and theological works, etc.," by the admission of children under 14 at Leyton.

SHOREDITCH,—Sir John Lubbock is to open the new Central Library in Pitfield Street, on March 23rd.

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA. — Mr. E. Marais, of Kootzenburg, has presented Victoria College with £1,000 to erect a new library.

STOKE NEWINGTON.—A branch of the Emigrants' Information Office has been established here.

TODMORDEN.—The Public Library, opened the first week in December, has been built at a cost of £4,000 (including site).

West Ham.—The Library Committee propose to provide 43 schools with small travelling libraries, so as to relieve the Libraries of some of their juvenile readers, and enable more time to be devoted to the requirements of adult readers.

APPOINTMENTS.

BATEMAN, Mr. Robert, librarian, Carlisle, to be librarian, Oldham.

Bennett, Mr. Harold, first assistant, Kidderminster, to be reference assistant, Chester.

Cook, Mr. Stanley, first assistant, Stalybridge, to be librarian, Abingdon.

CORCORAN, Mr., second assistant, Leyton, to be first assistant.

May, Mr. T. R., junior assistant, Kensington, to be junior assistant, St. George, Hanover Square.

Young, Mr. W. B., first assistant, Leyton, to be sublibrarian,

Notice.—All communications as to advertisements, or as to the contents of the April number, should be addressed to the Hon. Editor, Kensington Public Library, Old Brompton Road, S.W., on or before the 15th March.

